

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04702 170048Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 NEA-10 STR-04 TRSE-00 /031 W
----- 036241 /17
R 162253Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2477

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 4702

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, NZ
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BOYCOTTING COUNTRIES, FOR
PURPOSES OF TAX REFORM ACT OF 1976

REF: (A) STATE 250007, (B) WELLINGTON 3933

1. DURING A SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ON DECEMBER 7, THE
MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE, MR B E TALBOYS, RESPONDED
TO QUESTION PUT TO HIM REGARDING THE ARAB STATES EXPORT
BOYCOTT. IN VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN ANY
POLICY STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT THE EMBASSY IS
TRANSMITTING VERBATUM (TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION
OR IMPLICATION) THE TEXT OF THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN
MR TALBOYS AND HIS FELLOW PARLIAMENTARIANS:

"MR MARSHALL (WANGANUI) ON BEHALF OF MR ISBEY (GREY LYNN)
TO ASK THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE, CAN HE CONFIRM AS
CORRECT THE NEWS ITEM IN THE AUCKLAND STAR OF 27 NOVEMBER
CAPTIONED "ARABS FORCE EXPORT BOYCOTT ON NEW ZEALAND",
WHICH STATED THAT COMPANIES EXPORTING TO THE ARAB STATES
MUST NOT DEAL WITH CERTAIN COMPANIES, MUST ARRANGE FOR
THE GOODS EXPORTED TO BE CERTIFIED AS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND NOT CONTAINING ANY ISRAELI COMPONENTS, AND THAT IN AMANY
CASES THE COMPANIES WERE FORCED TO HAVE ALL DOCUMENTS
RELATING TO THE ORIGIN OF THE MATERIALS CERTIFIED AS
CORRECT BY THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WELLINGTON AT A CHARGE
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OF \$15?

HON. B. E. TALBOYS (MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE) - THE
ANSWER IS YES I CAN CONFIRM THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE
ARE BROADLY THE PICTURE AS I KNOW IT.

MR HUNT - IF THE STATEMENT IS CORRECT THAT COMPANIES EXPORTING TO ARAB STATES MUST NOT DEAL WITH CERTAIN COMPANIES, MUST ARRANGE FOR THE GOODS TO BE EXPORTED TO BE CERTIFIED AS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN AND NOT CONTAINING ANY ISRAELI COMPONENTS, DOES THIS REPRESENT A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN REGARD TO THIS INSISTENCE?

H. B. E. TALBOYS - THE FACT IS THAT THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE A POLICY ON THIS POINT. THIS IS A POLICY ESTABLISHED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

MR HUNT - SINCE THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE A POLICY ON THAT POINT, WOULD THE MINISTER NOT NOW THINK IT URGENT FOR NEW ZEALAND TO DEVELOP A POLICY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, NAMELY, THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES CAN BLACKMAIL THE UNITED STATES IN THAT REGARD?

HON. B. E. TALBOYS - THE POINT IS THAT THIS SITUATION HAS EXISTED FOR MANY YEARS. MOST EXPORTERS ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION. IT IS A MATTER FOR COMMERCIAL DECISION WHETHER OR NOT MARKETS ARE PURSUED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH WE CAN FORCE THE COUNTRIES OF THE ARAB LEAGUE TO ADOPT A CERTAIN POLICY.

MR PREBBLE - DID THE MINISTER OR ANY OTHER MINISTER TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH MIDDLE EAST GOVERNMENTS OF THE GENERAL ABHORRENCE OF MOST NEW ZEALANDERS TO THIS TYPE OF ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL?

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HON. B.E. TALBOYS - THE VIEWS OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT ARE KNOWN TO THOSE COUNTRIES.

MR HUNT - WHAT VIEWS? YOU HAVE NO POLICY.

HON. B. E. TALBOYS - NEW ZEALAND DOES NOT DO BUSINESS IN THIS WAY. IT NEVER HAS AND IT NEVER WILL, AND IT WILL NOT APPROVE OF THIS PRACTICE.

MR HUNT - YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE A POLICY.

HON. B.E. TALBOYS - I SUGGEST TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAT HE GROW UP AND RECOGNISE THE FACTS.

MR SEPAKER - ORDER* THAT EXPRESSION MUST BE WITHDRAWN, ALTHOUGH IT WAS THE RESULT OF PROVOCATION.

HON. B.E. TALBOYS - I WITHDRAW THE STATEMENT. I

SUGGEST TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAT HE RECOGNISES THE
FACTS, WHICH ARE THAT THERE IS NO WAY OF FORCING THE
COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO MODIFY THIS PRACTICE. ALL WE CAN DO
IS TO ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE
OVERALL PROBLEM."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WELLIN04702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-0438
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761235/aaaabdzo.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 250007, 76 WELLINGTON 3933
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BOYCOTTING COUNTRIES, FOR PURPOSES OF TAX REFORM ACT OF 1976
TAGS: BEXP, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006